

2013-2014

University Attended: University of Sydney

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

What did this involve, how long did it last, was it useful?

- An introductory talk about USYD at the Grand Hall by various University staff and students.
- Workshops offering guidance and support for Incoming exchange students. Covering: Societies, Sports, Accommodation, Future travel, Design your own timetable, Things to do in Sydney, Safety in the city, Weather, Library tutorial.
- An add/ drop period.
- Trips including: Breakfast with Koala Bears, Harbour Cruise, Manly beach, Surf Camp.
- A night out at Manning Bar at the Student Union for incoming exchange students only.
- Very useful. Tons of support. Made settling into Sydney very exciting and unnerving.
- Great way to make lots of friends in a very short period of time.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Style of teaching, courses, ease of access to courses, methods of assessment, teaching support

- Preferred style of teaching than the UK system.
- 4 units of study per semester. 8 per year.
- Normally 1 x 2 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour tutorial per week.
- Lectures feel a lot more relaxed.
- Lecture attendance is high.
- Great variety of Business School courses.
- A selection of 'Study Abroad' related courses including: Learning in Outdoor Education, Learning in Australian Sport and Culture, Indigenous Studies. Highly recommended to take for the 'Cultural' element to the study abroad year. All 8 week courses. Learning in Outdoor Education is highly recommended to meet lots of people: includes hiking trips in the Royal National Park and the Blue Mountains. Australian Sport and Culture involves 7 sporting related fieldtrips to Rugby, Cricket, Soccer, AFL, Indigenous Rugby, Bondi Surfing and University Games.
- University content accessed from Blackboard.
- Method of assessment highly differs to that of Manchester. A normal method of assessment of one unit of study would consist of: 10% Participation in Tutorial, 15% Group report, 20% Group presentation, 25% midterm exam, 30% final exam.
- Lowers the stress and 'feeling of doom' of facing a module with a 100% final exam.
- Teaching support similar to that of Manchester.
- Lecturers very prompt in replying to queries.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

- High level of support.
- High ease of making meetings with International Team during and after application process.
- All emails replied to very swiftly by all members of staff.
- Frequent pre-departure meetings with very relevant content and pre-departure information packs. Allowed us to see which student was attending which University, providing us with their contact details if we wished to get in touch.
- High quality market stall event of all partnered institutions at the start of the year.
- Effective International Society allowing networking to connections to favourable destinations abroad.
- Academic transcripts available upon request.

- Frequent communication throughout the year.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

- All very relevant and informative.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Level of support, additional information that could be useful for future students

- Very spacious International Lounge for incoming exchange students. Dedicated room for beanbags to allow students to relax in between lectures.
- Very effective content and material during induction week.
- Less prompt at replying to emails. However very useful in person. Helped me retrieve my tax file number.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

Please include any information relating to the purchase of compulsory health insurance ie costs etc. or whether this was waived by having the University of Manchester Insurance Policy

- 'NIB Health Insurance' recommended. One of the most popular and cheapest covers used by students.
- Health insurance is compulsory.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc.

- \$100 levy for Learning in Outdoor Education module to cover the two trips. This cost is heavily discounted. Both trips include travel and accommodation over two separate weekends.
- \$75 levy for the 7 trips in relation to Learning in Australian Sport and Culture Model. This cost is also heavily discounted. Includes admission into 7 different sellout sporting events.
- \$25 lost student card
- \$25 lost concession travel card
- \$50 for an 'Access Card' provided by the University of Sydney's student union. Allows discount on all products sold across every store on campus. Allows discount on society and sports join-up fees. Allows discount on events and nights out hosted by the Student Union.

ACCOMMODATION

As much information as possible on what accommodation is recommended or not recommended.

- Recommended to sort out desired accommodation once the student has arrived in Sydney.
- It's suggested not to pre-enter a housing contract without a prior viewing or meeting with the landlord or estate agency.
- 'Wake Up!' hostel is voted the best hostel experience in Sydney. Recommended to book into this hostel weeks in advance of arrival.
- Wake Up! is one of the most expensive hostels to stay in. But it's the most central, sociable and safest.
- It's good to base yourself in a hostel before seeking out accommodation in Sydney.
- It's difficult to find a place of desired budget/ location. But perseverance is key.
- I used agency websites and gumtree to search for my apartment.
- Search took 2 and a half weeks.
- Recommended to live in Bondi Junction, Bondi or Coogee for those who desire the proximity of a beach, and a 40 minute commute to University.
- If a commute is undesirable student accommodation can be found close to the University but this can be much more expensive.

● DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Transport, travel, social life, integration with local students, student activity groups

- Transport is very efficient. Made easier by 'Travel Apps' on Smartphones.
- General perception that travel is bad in Sydney. But I've never experienced any inefficiencies.

- Make the most of travel opportunities whilst you're in Australia. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. There may not be another chance to travel so freely in the future. Take the 'OneFishTwoFish Tour' up the East Coast. Google it. Be amazed. It involves skydiving, scuba diving, bungee jumping, whitewater rafting, ocean rafting, hiking and much more over 9 days.
 - I travelled to Melbourne, toured around Tasmania in a campervan, soloed to Bali, and spent a month travelling around Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand.
 - Schedule your timetable to allow time for long weekends to varied places around Australia.
 - Sydney is only a 3 hour flight to New Zealand. Possibilities of skiing and snowboarding in New Zealand during the winter.
 - Social life is second to none.
- Sydney is made up of settlers, backpackers and domestic and international students. Life's a beach and a party. Work hard, play hard. Recommended to do the Coogee to Bondi Walk, Manly Beach, Milk Beach, Palm Beach.
- Many nights out. Famous nightclubs include: The Ivy, Marquee, The World Bar. Famous Backpackers bars include: Scubar, Sidebar, Scary Canary.
 - Sports are widely practised on campus.
 - Campus has both an outdoor and indoor swimming pool.
 - Very easy to meet local students at University in classes, through tutorials, group work, sports teams and societies.
 - This year has taught me to travel endlessly, and to live my final year in Manchester from the eyes of an international student in the UK for the first time.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

A truly refreshing, unforgettable and mindblowing adventure.

FEEDBACK 2

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

What did this involve, how long did it last, was it useful?

The University of Sydney made a great effort to integrate International students into the cultures and customs of Sydney by giving us a presentation with all the key facts in it from transport around the city to up and coming trips away in the Spring Break. The University also organised a couple of trips in the city during orientation week to Darling Harbour and Manly via the ferry. Orientation Week was a week-long in theory but in practice 3 days.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Style of teaching, courses, ease of access to courses, methods of assessment, teaching support

Teaching very similar to the UK, lectures are given and usually recorded and made available online to listen to again. Tutorials are registered and participation marks make up 10% of the overall course grade. Online blackboard sites are easy to use but there is one for the business school and one for all other courses which was a little confusing at first. Assessment was pretty consistent throughout the year with each unit of study having 3 or 4 assessments for instance a presentation, report to support the presentation, a mid-term test and final exam. Lecturers were good and made time for you if needed.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

Andrew Walker and Sue Fidalgo were extremely helpful throughout the year, I'm very thankful for all the support I received up until and during the experience abroad.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

Not in my opinion.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Level of support, additional information that could be useful for future students

Helpful and competent.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

Please include any information relating to the purchase of compulsory health insurance ie costs etc. or whether this was waived by having the University of Manchester Insurance Policy

Compulsory with student visa to Australia and will probably cost more than other destinations.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc.

If you want to do some units of study that are exchange student friendly; Outdoor Education or Sport and Australian Culture for instance. These include field trips and therefore require \$100 and \$75 levy fees on top of standard fees.

ACCOMMODATION

As much information as possible on what accommodation is recommended or not recommended.

Expensive to live in the Uni Village, not a lot of housing that is cheap so be prepared to spend a bit more on this. Living inner city western areas would be cheapest but not necessarily the safest. Eastern Suburbs are close to beaches and shops but a little further from uni but at comparable prices to centre of town. Coogee, Randwick, Bondi Junction or Maroubra are easily accessible by bus from the centre of town.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Transport, travel, social life, integration with local students, student activity groups

Everyone always says the same; My year abroad was the best! Although you should be hesitant whenever you read that line as you're not sure if that destination will necessarily match with your personal characteristics when making your own future choice. Sydney is relatively expensive, there's no annual bus fee so getting around costs money and unfortunately alcohol isn't the cheapest and they serve you schooners which are almost ¾ of a pint and you'll have to work a little bit harder to meet some true Australians as they tend to travel longer distances than others!

But if you approach the notion of a year abroad with an open mind, can handle the long plane journey (even if you get a crying baby across the aisle from you) and accept that you will spend a little bit more money here and there then Sydney's got to be near the top of your list. Great beaches, great sport, great backpacking social atmosphere, the University is close to the CBD and walk-able distance to Central Station. There's plenty of manoeuvrability with regards to your timetable arrangements so long weekend trips up the coast are easily manageable. ...

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

Ashes, NRL Grand Final, Formula One down under, Australian Open of Surfing, Xmas on the beach and (some) Uni work on the side.